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 SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 9 September 1952

SUBJECT Information on the Shipyard and the Sea
 Police at Wolgast

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1. Security at the shipyards. The Peenewerft (shipyard) at Wolgast, East Germany, is being guarded by about 40 policemen armed with 0.8 (sic) pistols.¹ Acts of sponsored "sabotage" have been committed in the Peenewerft at the instigation of the head of the company fire service. "Practice fires" are started, "agents" with explosives creep under the fences into the shipyard and whoever discovers them is given a reward. The workers joke about this.
2. When the building of the coastal defense craft was to begin, a meeting was held at the end of 1951 at which a high-ranking Sea Police (Seepolizei) officer spoke. When the workers protested vigorously against the proposed armament of the vessels, the officer explained that the ships were to clear certain parts of the Baltic of mines, and that armament was necessary for that purpose.
3. Production at Peenewerft. Luggers and seiners are no longer being built at Peenewerft. Contracts for this type of craft are mainly being assigned to the Volkswerft, Stralsund. The lugger program was completed at the end of 1951. From June 1950 to the end of 1951, a total of 150 drifters were built. One lugger is now being used by the Seepolizei as a survey ship (Vermessungsschiff) and one is a fishing vessel of the East Zone fishing fleet. All the others have gone to Russia in convoys of twenty at a time. In addition to the contracts for fishing craft, the shipyard has been engaged on contracts for the headquarters of the Seepolizei. These cover various types of equipment, including parts for mines.
4. Naval-type Vessels.
 - a. Six coastal defense vessels have been completed since June 1951. They are about 40 m. long; they have one 2-cm. gun forward and two aft. The Seepolizei have already taken over these boats.
 - b. A Commanders' ship (Kommandantenschiff) is now being built for the Seepolizei. She is named "Dorsch" and has a displacement of 1,200 tons. She will be fitted with an 1,800 horse-power twin engine (Zwillingsmaschine). All the superstructure of the "Dorsch" is to be made of Hydronalium (sic)² as the ship, which is said to be of English or Danish origin, might otherwise be top-heavy.

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- c. The conversion of the two 300-ton steamships "Prenzlau" and "Fürstenberg" is almost completed. Both are fitted with a broad stern, adapted for mine-laying, and mine-laying rails (Minenablaufbahnen).
- d. Several vessels with unusually powerful engines and a displacement of 1,200 to 1,400 tons are projected. The matter is given a considerable degree of secrecy and no further details are available at present.
5. New Construction. A new work-shed is being built in the Peenewerft. It is about 200 m. long and 40 m. wide. It was to have been ready by 1 May 1952 but, owing to a shortage of materials, the completion has been delayed. New slipways are also being built and a new construction office is projected.
6. Shipyard Bottlenecks. There has been a great shortage of materials in the shipyard for a long time. Steel for tools is unobtainable so rails were melted down and used when such could be had. Copper pipes are also short. Those delivered were in fact copper, but they must already have been melted down several times, as they were extremely soft. In February, 1952 only eight tons of imported 3-mm. sheet metal were delivered. Scarcity of this sheet metal is a serious bottleneck. The metal which was delivered was packed for exporting in the customary German manner. It was thought, therefore, that the sheet metal came from West Germany.
7. Seepolizei. In the middle of March, the Wolgast Fire Brigade was called out to a fire in Kolpingsee. A few minutes after its departure, another fire broke out in the opposite direction - in a small barrack of the Seepolizei. The building, used for storing uniforms, munitions, etc., was completely burned out. The local population was told nothing about the incident. Several members of the Seepolizei were arrested.
8. It is estimated that about 600 members of the Seepolizei are at present stationed in Wolgast. New barracks are now being built at Peenemunde.
- 25X1 1. [] Comment: Presumably the caliber of the pistols is about 8 millimeters or 0.8 centimeters.
- 25X1 2. [] Comment: "Hydronalium" is probably a barbarism. In context, it suggests a light alloy, probably of aluminum, used in shipbuilding.

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